

ARIZONA OUTDOOR RECREATION COORDINATING COMMISSION  
(AORCC)  
OF ARIZONA STATE PARKS  
Basement Board Room  
1300 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
April 12, 2010

**A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

Jeff Bell  
Renée Bahl  
William Schwind  
Devin Rankin, absent  
Karla Brady, via teleconference  
Larry Voyles, absent  
Margaret Nyberg, absent  
Robert Baldwin announced quorum.

**B. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND STAFF**

Doris Pulsifer, Chief of Budget & Payroll  
Kent Ennis, Assistant Director - Administrative Staff  
Jay Ziemann, Assistant Director – Partnerships  
Annie McVay, State Trails Coordinator  
Robert Baldwin, Recreational Trails Grant Coordinator

**C. ACTION ITEMS**

- 1. Approval of Minutes from the October 22, 2009 Meeting.**  
Approval of minutes from October 22, 2009 meeting. Vice-Chair William Schwind, Commissioner Renée Bahl second, motion carries.
- 2. Approval of Minutes from the January 13, 2010 Joint Public Meeting of AORCC and Arizona State Committee on Trails (ASCOT) and Historic Preservation Advisory Committee (HPAC) and Natural Areas Program Advisory Committee (NAPAC) and Off-Highway Vehicle Advisory Group (OHVAG) of the Arizona State Parks Board.**  
Commissioner Renée Bahl moved to accept minutes, Vice-Chair William Schwind seconds, motion carries unanimous.
- 3. Presentation on Status of State Parks Budgets for 2009-2010 and 2010-2011.**  
Staff will update AORCC regarding the budgets for State Parks and allow AORCC members to ask questions.

Kent Ennis – Referenced Table A shows summary of Legislative fund sweeps for 2010 and 2011 fiscal years totaling \$71.7 million. They continue to hit our Enhancement Fund to the tune of about \$12.8 million. And, as you can see in the column on the far right, they continue to hit the State Lake Improvement Fund for over \$22.6 million.

Table B shows the State Parks Operating budget. This includes operation of nine or ten parks. The rest have been closed, but we are aggressively pursuing agreements with other communities to operate those parks. This budget shows that we anticipate an operating deficit of \$1.3 million if additional revenues cannot be secured.

With that in mind and considering that the Legislature has authorized State Parks to use the LEBSF funds for operating next year, we intend to use those fund to make up that deficit. Table A illustrates the devastating hits that an agency of our size has been subjected to. Use of the LEBSF fund is needed to keep even the nine or ten parks open.

W. Schwind – Can you take these cuts down to the number of FTE (full time equivalents) that you have lost in administration?

K. Ennis – In the recent second round of layoffs we lost 15 positions and last fall in the first round, it was another 12 positions, a total of 27 positions. This budget reflects operating costs without those positions.

R.Bahl – We are approaching about a 50% vacancy rate between the field and the Phoenix office. We currently have 217 of the original 400 staff positions filled and we are looking at another reduction of 50 positions both in the field and office combined.

W. Schwind – What is the status of the Heritage Fund? Where is the sale of current lottery tickets going?

K. Ennis – On January 1, 2010 State Parks stopped receiving any new lottery funds. From now on the State Parks portion will be deposited directly in the general fund and on July 1, 2011, any money left in State Parks will be turned over to the general fund.

**4. Consider Retaining the FY 2010 Law Enforcement and Boating Safety Fund (LEBSF) Distribution.**

Doris Pulsifer – Mr. Ennis' report lead us to the need for this recommendation. A brief history of the LEBSF begins in August 2007 when this group approved the allocation percentages for 2008-2010 based on the watercraft survey completed in 2006. The distributions have been made for 2008 and 2009 and the 2010 distribution would normally occur in July of this year (2010). We anticipate the fund will be about \$2 million at that time. Our request is to retain that money for operating during fiscal year 2011 and backfill spending reductions from the 2010 budget.

J. Bell – I want to be sure I am clear. For 2010 the recommendation is to make \$0 distribution and the recommendation for 2011 is ...

D. Pulsifer – The legislation allows State Parks to use all of that fund except for \$500,000 that must be distributed to only La Paz and Mohave Counties.

W. Schwind – Is there a plan beyond 2011?

K. Ennis – This is session law for next year. If nothing happens, then use of the fund reverts back to existing law.

A. Nelson, La Paz County – I urge the Commission not to recommend the use of the fund by State Parks. This will be devastating to boating in the state. Not only would it remove virtually all watercraft patrols from the rivers and lakes in the state, but it would also take the officers out of the boating safety classes they offer to the public. The State is placing many other burdens on the counties which make it difficult to take these officers back on county payrolls. This action will be similar to removing police and highway patrol officers from the streets and highways. I believe it will create a significant public safety issue.

K. Brady – I hate to see this, but I'm not sure we have any other choices. I know Bullhead City will continue to patrol it's river with local police. But Mohave County has a lot more river to cover.

Motion to accept staff recommendation by W. Schwind, second by R. Bahl, call for vote unanimous, motion carries.

**D. REPORTS - Commission and staff reports may be written or verbal.**

**1. Parks Board Actions on AORCC Items – none.**

**2. Legislative Update**

**Jay Ziemann** – The legislature is winding up. There is very little in the way of additional funding. There have been no discussions about reestablishing the Heritage Fund. There are some strike everything amendments out there that would be confusing or a greater attack upon our funding. So, we are continuing to work those, but this legislature has not been much of a help to say the very most to the State of Arizona's public recreation.

**J. Bell** – What is the status of the self-sustaining bill?

J. Ziemann – The Governor called a task force that met last summer and recommended a program where people would pay a \$9-10 fee at the time they register their vehicle. They would get free day use access to all of the state parks. That became HCR2040. It breezed through its first committee then was assigned to the House Appropriations Committee where the Chair John Kavanaugh, Fountain Hills, sat on the bill and refused to give it a hearing. Efforts to move the bill out of that committee were not successful and the bill died in committee. So, we are looking at getting that type of bill revived or some other method to establish sustainable funding in the near future.

J. Bell – Didn't he propose an alternative?

J. Ziemann – Representative Kavanaugh proposed a voluntary contribution that is included in the strike everything amendment to House Bill 2599. It is a voluntary donation of \$10 at the time of registration. You would not get anything for the donation. The donation would go into a fund that the

legislature could sweep and have swept in the past. Another problem with this scenario is that the Department of Transportation would have to change all of the vehicle registrations and they would want \$90k each year to manage that. So the first 9000 people that donated would go to pay the ADOT. This proposal is not really going to provide any relief for the State Parks system.

J. Bell – Can you give a status of the bill regarding Lake Havasu City?

J. Ziemann – The Lake Havasu contingent in the legislature introduced two bills at the beginning of the session that would have required State Parks to lease Lake Havasu State Park to the City of Lake Havasu for a period of 25 years and the lease payment could be no more than \$50k per year. Both of those bills died and then last week the proposal popped up again in a strike everything amendment to HB 2464 and passed out of Senate Appropriations. We anticipate earning between \$400k and \$500k on net revenue in fiscal year 2011. Two factors are making that net jump up significantly. One is fee increases we have instituted and second with the reductions in force and layoffs we have done, we have some flexibility in how we use our staff. Taking \$50k in return for that revenue would be very detrimental to our ability to keep the nine or ten parks open and would greatly impede our ability to get other closed parks open eventually. We are actively working to see that this bill does not go any further than it has.

### **3. AORCC Presentation to the Parks Board**

Commissioner Renée Bahl complimented Devin Rankin on the “great job done representing the Commission.”

**E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC - none.**

**F. SUMMARY OF CURRENT EVENTS, MATTERS OF BOARD PROCEDURE, REQUESTS AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA**

J. Bell - Stay in tune with ASP Foundation website, as well as [azstateparks.com](http://azstateparks.com) for updated information. Website is frequently updated.

**G. TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING – TBA**

Jay Ziemann noted point of contact for Grants business would be Robert Baldwin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jay Z., 3<sup>rd</sup> Doris Pulsifer.

**H. ADJOURNMENT at 1:29pm**

William Schwind moved, Commissioner Renée Bahl second. Motion carries.